

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN
REPUBLIC
CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION
OF PLACES OF COMMEMORATION**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Italian Republic (hereafter referred to as Parties),

Desirous of productive mutual cooperation in the field of cultural heritage,

Convinced that such cooperation will contribute to the strengthening of the relationship between the two States,

Bearing in mind the respect due to fundamental human rights, and seeking to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, ethnicities and religious groups,

Convinced that each culture has a dignity and a value which must be respected and preserved, and that all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind,

Desiring to enhance the protection of cultural heritage and provide access to treasures of national and world culture without discrimination,

Concerned that deterioration or disappearance of items of the cultural heritage constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Considering that the protection of cultural heritage can be more effective if organized among States working in cooperation,

Recalling the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and

Desirous of elaborating concrete steps in furtherance of the principles and purposes of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage done on November 23, 1972, with respect to certain items of cultural heritage of the victims of genocide during the Second World War,

ARTICLE 5

A joint cultural task force of not more than three representatives of each Party is hereby established to agree on the lists referred to in Article 3, to resolve issues that may arise related to matters covered by this Agreement, and to perform such other functions as are delegated to it by mutual agreement of the Parties. Decisions of the task force shall require the assent of the representatives of both Parties. The Parties shall cooperate in providing the task force with access to the items of cultural heritage and information necessary for the execution of its responsibilities.

The activities performed by the task force will not constitute a financial burden for each Party.

The United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement for the Government of the United States of America. The Ministry for Cultural Assets and Activities of the Italian Republic shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement for the Government of the Italian Republic.

Communication related to the implementation of this Agreement, including its interpretation, shall be executed by each Party by diplomatic note addressed to the other.

ARTICLE 6

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to relieve either Party of its obligations under the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage or any other agreement for the protection of cultural heritage.

ARTICLE 7

This Agreement shall be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations of both countries and shall not entail any additional financial burden for the budgets of the Parties, including those deriving from possible private financing.

ARTICLE 8

This Agreement shall enter into force upon an exchange of diplomatic notes by which the Parties inform each other about the fulfilment of their respective legal requirements for entry into force. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent by the Parties. The amendments shall enter into force with the procedures agreed upon by the Parties.

The Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by either Party giving six months' prior written notice through diplomatic channels to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

Done at Rome on this 18th day
of December 2008, in two originals, each in the
English and Italian language, each text being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC